

## Let's sue

Good morning.  
The governor of our sovereign state is empowering a consortium of lawyers to sue the tobacco companies for a billion dollars or so for the cost of all the smokers who are a burden on the state for health care or disability.

It might be called the legal full employment act. Win, lose or break-even, there will be lots of work for the legal consortium that could make \$350 million if successful in the suit. Tobacco companies will employ not a few attorneys over the coming years.



**Derek  
Dunn-Rankin**

Even judges who seem to be fully employed will get some extra work. Win, lose or break-even you can bet the attorneys will not go away empty-handed.

It is comforting to know that any bodily harm I might have done myself from 40 years of smoking is not my fault. I am that worst sort of smoker, the reformed kind who has quit 100 times since starting with a pipe at age 14.

After 40 years, I was puffing so much that it took three pipes in my pocket so that the last one could cool down before being refilled. The last time I quit was about a dozen years ago. The evidence has been clear for years smoking can kill you. We reformed types can be pretty smug. Now that I know nicotine addiction wasn't my fault, I am almost sorry I quit. There is no right to pride either. If I wasn't responsible for smoking there's no credit in quitting.

Relax smokers, you're not to blame. There may be some money out there governor, sue the tobacco companies.

Nasty smashup on the road home. We're not to blame. It's those people who manufacture the beer, wine and liquor who are to blame. Governor, sue Budweiser. Sue the Gallo Wineries. Sue Schenley.

Cholesterol up? Weight up? We're not to blame. It's those Wisconsin dairy farmers who are to blame, peddling that butter fat in pretty ads that make us think it is healthful and harmless. Governor, sue the dairy farmers.

We're not to blame. Those guilty black and white cows that dot the Vermont mountainsides are at fault. Yes, Vermont, famous for maple sugar and the home of Ben and Jerry's Rocky Road and other equally criminal delights. We're not responsible for clogging our veins with cholesterol and adding to our rounded contours. It is the proven addiction to sugar, heavy cream and advertising hype that's to blame. Governor, sue Ben and Jerry.

We're not to blame. Stress did us in. In the hospital for life-saving care after a heart attack? Worrying about hospital bills slowing your recovery? It's stress. And why not, higher taxes are eating into insufficient income. More government rules and regulations frustrate us every day. What an irritation. How can we relax? Stress, the governor's to blame. The governor sends down a new budget to the Legislature every year and then signs what they send back to him. Stress, heart attacks, the governor is to blame. Let's sue the governor.

If we can come up with enough ideas for Governor Chiles we may be able to lower the classroom size for our teachers, build more prison beds and lower taxes. Send me a list of your suit candidates and I will forward them to Governor Chiles.

Theme for this column suggested by an under-employed lawyer friend.

Derek Dunn-Rankin is the publisher of the Sun Herald.

D. A.  
Qualkinbush  
44529

DAVE  
Great!

David:

Rogan.

This article was in our  
Sunday paper, Charlotte  
Sun Herald, Punta Gorda,  
FL and I just had to  
share it with someone  
who would appreciate  
it!

Larathy

Roger My

Retired Secretary in  
Fort Wayne IN.  
Moved to Florida years  
ago. She sent me  
this article  
from her home town  
newspaper.